(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

Involvement of NGOs in rain water harnessing in Karnataka

*187. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has sought the involvement of Non-Government and Voluntary Organisations for harnessing rain water;

(b) if so, the number of Non-Government and voluntary organizations proposed to be involved for the purpose;

(c) whether there is any provision in the Central Scheme for recharge of ground water for the involvement of NG and voluntary organizations; and

(d) if so, whether Government have given permission to Karnataka Government to involve them in harnessing rain water?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCE (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a)

Loss due to sharing of Ravi waters to Pakistan

†*188. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Water of Ravi river has been flowing incessantly to Pakistan even after 50 years of Independence;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the book "Troubled water of Punjab" by Vijai Pal Singh in which it has been explained about the rivers of Punjab and highlighted as to how India is losing to Pakistan on sharing river water; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) After the construction of Ranjit Sagar Dam on river Ravi, India is in a position to utilize most of the Ravi water.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Over the years, India has built storage dams on the rivers Sutluj, Beas and Ravi. Stage-I of Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana (IGNP) and Sidhmukh Nohar Project of Rajasthan are mostly complete. Stage-II of IGNP (Rajasthan) and Shahpur Kandi Barrage are in various stages of construction. On completion of all such project including Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal, India shall be in a position to utilize most of the waters of these rivers.

Increase in deposits of scheduled commercial banks

*189. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that deposits of scheduled commercial banks have increased in the recent past despite low interest rate given to depositors;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to increase the rate of interest for depositors in near future; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) (i) Since October, 1997 the interest rate structure of the commercial banks bas been deregulated.

(ii) Except for savings banks deposit, banks are given full freedom to determine interest rate on domestic term deposits of less than Rs. 15 lakhs with a maturity of 15 days and above as well as for deposit size of Rs. 15 lakh and above with a maturity of 7 days and above.